

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

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1. (As Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:  
a housing;  
a plurality of surface mount contacts; and  
areas of reduced rigidity in [the] a peripheral wall of the housing, each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprising [one of] either a notch [and] or a slot and located at positions generally furthest from a neutral point of the connector and extending through [the] a distal end of the peripheral wall of the housing from an inner face to an outer face of the peripheral wall.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-16, and 19-21 were rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7 and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which was not described in the specification (i.e., "each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprising one of a notch and a slot" as claimed in claim 1). Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Moreover, it is noted that claims 2, 3, 17, and 18 were canceled in an earlier Amendment, and are no longer pending. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4-7, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-8, 16, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been appropriately amended. The